

Message Text

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16

ACTION EA-14

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FM AMEMBASSY SAIGON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7201

INFO USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

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E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: EAID, VS

SUBJECT: GVN FOREIGN MINISTER'S LETTER TO
OLOF STROH, IOG

1. FOLLOWING IS EXTRACT FROM A LETTER (TRANSLATED FROM THE FRENCH) DATED 9 AUGUST 1973 FROM MR. NGUYEN PHY DUC, ACTING MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF THE REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM, ADDRESSED TO MR. OLOF STROH, COORDINATOR OF INTERNATIONAL ASSISTANCE OF THE RED CROSS TO INDOCHINA.

2. BEGIN TEXT: REFERENCE YOUR LETTER OF JULY 2, 1973 CONCERNING THE PROJECT OF THE RED CROSS INDOCHINA OPERATIONS GROUP TO TRANSIT VIA SAIGON "MERCHANDISE FOR RED CROSS INTERNATIONAL HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO THE POPULATION IN THE AREAS CONTROLLED BY THE PROVISIONAL REVOLUTIONARY GOVERNMENT OF SOUTH VIETNAM".

3. OUR GOVERNMENT CANNOT CONSENT TO SUCH A PROJECT WITH THE JURIDICAL AND POLITICAL COROLLARIES WHICH ACCOMPANY IT, NAMELY THE RECOGNITION OF SOUTH VIETNAM OF THE EXISTENCE OF A SECOND RED CROSS ORGANIZATION AND OF INHABITED AREAS IN
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WHICH CITIZENS OF THE REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM ARE SUBJECT TO AN

AUTHORITY OTHER THAN THAT OF THE LEGAL GOVERNMENT
WHICH THEY CONSTITUTIONALLY ELECTED.

4. ACTUALLY, THERE EXISTS IN SOUTH VIETNAM ONLY ONE NATIONAL
RED CROSS ORGANIZATION RECOGNIZED BY THE INTERNATIONAL
COMMITTEE OF THE RED CROSS, NAMELY THE "RED CROSS OF THE
REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM" WITH HEADQUARTERS IN SAIGON AND THE
HUMANITARIAN ACTIVITY OF WHICH EXTENDS TO ALL SOUTH
VIETNAMESE TERRITORY. THERE CANNOT BE A SECOND RED
CROSS ORGANIZATION IN SOUTH VIETNAM WHETHER IT BE THAT OF
THE NATIONAL LIBERATION FRONT", THAT OF THE SO-CALLED
PROVISIONAL REVOLUTIONARY GOVERNMENT", OR THAT OF ANY OTHER
OPPOSITION GROUPING, WITHOUT INFRINGING ON THE PRINCIPLE
OF UNITY, ONE OF THE SEVEN FUNDAMENTAL PRINCIPLES OF
THE RED CROSS.

5. MOREOVER, THERE CANNOT BE ON THE SIDE OF THE "NLF"
INHABITED ZONES" OR "POPULATED ZONES". THAT BODY (NLF)
CAN CLAIM ONLY "TROOP STATIONING ZONES" PENDING A
SETTLEMENT OF THE QUESTION OF THE VIETNAMESE ARMED FORCES
BY THE SOUTH VIETNAMESE PARTIES AS CALLED FOR BY THE
PARIS AGREEMENTS OF JANUARY 27, 1973. THE PEOPLE
OCCASIONALLY INHABITING THOSE AREAS ARE SUBJECT TO A VERY
TEMPORARY AND FLUID AUTHORITY ON THE PART OF THESE TROOPS,
AND ONE CANNOT SAY THAT THEY ARE "CONTROLLED" BY THE
"NATIONAL LIBERATION FRONT" OR BY THE SO-CALLED "PRG".
IN ANY CASE, THEY CONSTITUTE AN EXTREMELY SMALL MINORITY
OF POPULATION...

6. . . . THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF THE REPUBLIC OF
VIETNAM WOULD BE DISPOSED TO DISCUSS WITH THE INDOCHINA
OPERATIONS GROUP OF THE RED CROSS THE QUESTION OF OVERALL
HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE FROM THE RED CROSS DESTINED FOR
THE ENTIRE SOUTH VIETNAMESE POPULATION WITHOUT DISTINCTION
OF CATEGORIES, THE CONVEYANCE OF THIS ASSISTANCE TO BE
EFFECTED IN SUCH A MANNER THAT THE TERRITORIAL AND POLITICAL
SOVEREIGNTY OF THE GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM
AND THE COMPETENCE OF THE NATIONAL RED CROSS NOT BE
DIMINISHED. . . . END TEXT.

APPLING

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